(c) The implementation of above measures particularly SCTL package will effectively postpone the repayment of debt, provide for need based fresh crop loans after rescheduling the existing crop loans and result in reduced cost of loans. All these measures will provide relief to the coffee growers.

(d) The Government of India has been continuously monitoring/reviewing the implementation of the SCTL package. The banks and Coffee Board through their extension network have also been disseminating the information regarding relief packages to the coffee growers for successful implementation of the package.

Steering Committee on FDI

1200. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan Steering Committee on FDI headed by Shri N.K. Singh has proposed some measures to attract more FDI into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Steering Committee on Foreign Direct Investment set up by the Planning Commission in the context of the Tenth Five Year Plan has, *inter alia,* recommended raising/removal of FDI caps in certain sectors, strengthening of institutional framework for investment promotion and simplification of entry/exit norms and procedures.

(c) The Report of the Committee is under consideration of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on FDI.

India's petition against huge subsidy provided by USA

†1201. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has filed petition in the WTO against the huge subsidy being provided by the USA;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues objected to by India; and

(c) by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken by the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Brazil has sought consultations with the USA regarding subsidies being given by it to upland cotton. In accordance with the provisions of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India has notified the consulting countries of its desire to be joined in the consultations as a third party. Further action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of the DSU.

Besides, in the context of the ongoing negotiations in agriculture under the Doha Work Programme of the WTO, India has proposed substantial reductions in all trade-distorting domestic support and the elimination of export subsidies by developed countries. The negotiations are scheduled to conclude by Ist January, 2005.

Differences between India and EU on trade issues

†1202. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a controversial situation has arisen between India and European countries on some issues relating to trade;

(b) if so, the details of the issues and the views of India and European countries on these issues; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate the controversies on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) There are several India-EU bilateral trade issues pertaining to market access for Indian products in agricultural, industrial, (including textile/clothing products) and services sector. These include non-tariff barriers in form of stringent regulations and non-harmonised procedures, complex tariff/quota regulations, repeated and disproportionate use of trade defence instruments against India's export to EU, impact of zero-duty concession extended by EU to Pakistan, European Commission's proposal to impose 100% control measures against India's seafood exports to EU.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.